



First Public Access Hiking Trail Opens in Virginia

By External Affairs Staff, BLM-Eastern States

On April 29, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) formally opened the first public access hiking trail on the 800-acre Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). BLM-ES Director Mike Nedd presided over the ceremony for the trail opening at the Meadowood SRMA site, located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Fairfax County, Virginia. Memoranda of Understanding were signed by BLM, the Friends of Meadowood, and the Mason Neck Horse Coalition, to facilitate cooperation for on-the-ground management of the Meadowood SRMA.

Guest speakers included David Albo, State legislator for Virginia, who spoke on behalf of The Honorable Tom Davis, Congressman, 11th District in Virginia; The Honorable J. Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; James Hughes, Deputy Director, BLM; and Gerry Hyland, Fairfax County Supervisor. Charlie Creighton and Gladys Bushrod, long-time residents of the Mason Neck area, were also present for the unveiling of the trail sign.

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Guest speakers, partners and long-time residents assist with the unveiling of the new public access trail sign, Wood Thrush Trail, located at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Virginia.



BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Deputy Director Fran Cherry visited the BLM-ES office in Springfield, Virginia, on July 14, to speak to employees and to get a presentation on the future of BLM-ES, which was warmly received.

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State Director's Message

Today, volunteers play a key role in BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES). With their help, we are better able to fulfill the Secretary of the Interior's 4 C's philosophy of communication, consultation, and cooperation, all in the service of conservation. Our volunteers have been a successful part of our past and continue to grow in importance as we accomplish our mission today and in the future.

Additionally, President George W. Bush has called upon Federal Agencies to grow their volunteer base. BLM-ES has responded to that call by using a variety of available tools, such as outreach, partnerships, and the Federal volunteer Web site USA Freedom Corp, The President's Call to Service, at www.usafreedomcorps.gov/. To date, we have posted 33 volunteer opportunities on the Volunteer web site, and hope to post an additional 32 opportunities in the near future. We are also developing a BLM-ES Volunteer Outreach program with local primary educational institutions in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area and will continue to work with existing volunteer outreach organizations in association with educational organizations and interest groups throughout BLM-ES' area of administration.

Volunteers contribute tens of thousands of dollars worth of skills, labor, and knowledge annually. Using our pool of dedicated volunteers allows us to accomplish many tasks that might not be possible because of limited resources, all while helping us to serve the American public.

Our BLM-ES volunteers are dedicated to the concept of public service, and, with their help, we are better equipped to serve America's public, while maximizing the available resources to expand service and opportunities for citizens who enjoy America's public land now and in the future.

This year, through the efforts of our BLM-ES Jackson Field Office, BLM-ES had the honor of receiving recognition through its 2003 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award recipient, Neal White. Mr. White is a teacher at the Jupiter Community High School's Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy, in Jupiter, Florida, where he donated significant time and effort volunteering during 2002. Mr. White was instrumental in the restoration of a significant wetland area in Florida, and he continues to provide environmental education opportunities to Florida's youth.

Volunteers are a strong component of our future at BLM-ES, and we will make every effort to support them and their efforts—all to deliver our promise to be, "Guardians of the Past and Stewards for the Future."

Michael D. Nedd
State Director, Eastern States



BLM-ES volunteer Neal White proudly shows off his BLM 2003 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award, presented on May 8, for his work with schoolchildren at Jupiter Inlet in Florida. The awards were presented at a special ceremony at the Interior Department's historic South Penthouse in Washington, DC. Standing from left are: Elena Daly, Assistant Director for the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System; Terry Lewis, BLM-ES External Affairs Chief; Neal White; Faye Winters, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Wildlife Biologist; and Bob Johns, BLM's Deputy Assistant Director for Communications.



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The hiking trail was named Wood Thrush Trail and winds through the magnificent wooded areas of the Meadowood SRMA for over 1.2 miles and offers some spectacular opportunities to observe deer, fox, squirrel, various bird species, and other wildlife in its natural habitat. Observable plant life includes examples of native species of grasses and flowers. The scenic, natural setting of the hiking trail offers

people in the Washington, DC Metro vicinity an opportunity not easily found so close to a large metropolitan area. "This hiking trail will bring added value to the local area and will be used by countless generations of citizens. The Meadowood SRMA provides unique opportunities for communities to experience BLM in the East," said BLM-ES Director Mike Nedd.

Outdoor Writers Association of America Attendees Discover Missouri

By Bill Davenport, Marketing Specialist and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-ES External Affairs

Cited as a celebration of discovery, this year's Outdoor Writer's Association of America (OWAA) conference offered just that. From June 14-18, 2003, BLM representatives from Eastern States and other State Offices brought agency work to life in Columbia, Missouri.

The conference provided professional writers and partners of OWAA an opportunity to share information, listen to national speakers, and attend educational sessions such as "Chronic Wasting Disease," "How to Use a Digital Camera," the "National Wildlife Refuge System at 100," and "Lewis and Clark—The History." The sessions allowed the BLM staff to connect with and build relationships with OWAA members, which will lead to a greater understanding of the many issues facing BLM in managing America's public lands.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton gave a keynote speech at the conference, where she outlined several programs at the Department of the Interior and discussed issues such as wildfires on Federal land, concerns of outsourcing positions to private vendors, energy exploration, and land management issues. BLM's Deputy Director Fran Cherry participated in a panel discussion about BLM's role in "The Changing Nature of Public Land," where he suggested that America is demanding more access to the public lands and the types of recreation on the public lands are ever changing and becoming increasingly more complex. Deputy Directory Cherry also discussed BLM's efforts to achieve multiple-use mandates while balancing the demands of all potential users.

The BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) staff spoke with over 400 professional outdoor writers on



Photo by Bill Davenport

BLM-ES External Affairs Chief Terry Lewis talks to participants at the BLM's tabletop display which emphasized the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration during the 2003 Outdoor Writers Association of America Conference in Columbia, Missouri, in mid-June.

Registration Day, where they shared information about BLM's programs such as Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions, Cadastral Survey, the General Land Office (GLO) and recreational uses on America's public lands.

Additionally, BLM representatives conducted various field events to test the knowledge of over 300 conference participants. BLM-ES Cadastral Survey and GLO crew members provided information to the writers about the GLO records project and the history of surveying in the United States. OWAA partner, Rob Nurre, from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, conducted hourly re-enactments of a turn-of-the-century surveyor and provided an in-depth knowledge of surveying methods and tools used by the early surveyors.

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Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew Gears Up for Another Fire Season

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office

As an encore to their successful 2002 prescribed burning season, the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Jackson Hotshot Crew revived their role in assisting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) on National Wildlife Refuges in the Southeast in 2003. In 2002, the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office entered into a partnership with Region IV of the FWS to reduce fuel load on National Wildlife Refuges. In this ongoing partnership, the FWS's role is to identify Refuges which are in critical need of fuel reduction. Once these areas have been identified, the BLM prescribed fire squads methodically perform the prescribed burns.

Last year, as a result of the Crew's efforts, hazardous fuels were reduced on approximately 25,000 acres, with the FWS noting that this was the most successful prescribed fire operation ever held in Region IV. The Crew had two squads operating on Refuges, each with 6-8 members. One squad worked in the Savannah, Santee, and PeeDee Ecosystems, which cover National Wildlife Refuges in the 3-State area of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The other squad, stationed in Louisiana, was equally successful by supporting five Refuges in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. All of these areas are in close proximity to



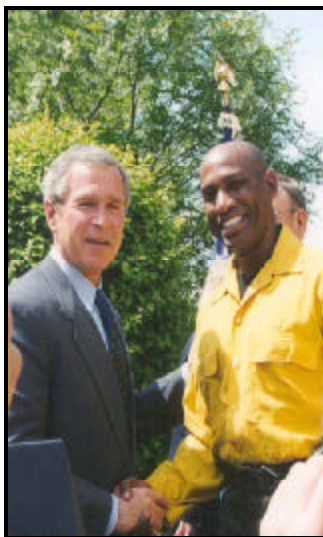
BLM-Eastern States Jackson Hotshots ignite a prescribed burn on a national wildlife refuge in Georgia.

urban interface situations, and the threat of disastrous wildland fire has been reduced.

This year, following completion of their required fire training, the 2003 Jackson Hotshots headed off to North Carolina for project work. The Crew put in a 30-foot firebreak around the 300-acre Guilford Courthouse Military Park to help protect the park from any threat of disastrous wildland fire. In July, the Crew assisted at the Bulldog fire near Richfield, Utah, for a week, then enjoyed rest and relaxation, followed by 4 days in Jackson, Mississippi.

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This year's conference gave the BLM another opportunity to establish and renew relationships with a powerful organization of journalists and outdoor industry public affairs professionals who have the ability to influence the American public's perception about how BLM administers the public lands. These professional journalists reach hundreds of thousands of people each day through their columns, TV shows, and editorials. The contacts made and information shared will certainly lead to a better understanding of BLM's responsibilities and methodologies used in managing "Your Public Lands."



Jackson Hotshot Crew Member Visits the President

Jackson Hotshot Crew Superintendent Lamar Liddell shakes hands with President Bush at the spring Healthy Forest Initiative roll out on the White House lawn.



Youngsters Enjoy a Day of Fishing

Story and photo by Milli Alam, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-ES External Affairs

On June 2, the sun was just right, the Washington Monument made for a picturesque backdrop, and the children were enjoying themselves. What a perfect way to begin the National Fishing and Boating Week Kickoff at the Constitution Gardens in Washington, DC!

BLM's Deputy Director Fran Cherry and Assistant Director for the National Landscape Conservation System Elena Daly kicked off the event, with Washington, DC's Mayor Anthony Williams also making an appearance. Agencies participating in the event included the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM was well represented with the greatest number of volunteers—Geoff Walsh, Ted Laird, Bill Forbes, Sherlena Clark, Terry Lewis, Bill Davenport, and Milli Alam participating from BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES).

Over 250 Washington, DC Metropolitan area elementary and middle school children came to learn and experience the basics of fishing. As the kids arrived in masses, they were received by volunteers, divided into groups, and sent to different stations to learn about fish habitat, fish identification, environmental stewardship, boating safety, knot tying, and casting. This year was the first time a passport system was



BLM-Eastern States fishing crew members help youngsters with fishing techniques on National Fishing Day in Washington, DC.

used. After visiting all six stations, the kids received a passport which entitled them to use a fishing pole, thus applying their newly acquired skills as they tossed the line out into the water, hoping to catch the "big one."

The kids continued to fish even after lunch. Volunteers continuously supplied the fishing hooks with bait (cut-up worms). Some of the youngsters even picked up the slimy bits of worm and bravely baited their own hooks. At day's end, the kids had many stories to tell about the skills they learned and the fish they caught.

Patent Signing Completes Execution of the White Earth Land Settlement Act of 1985

On July 7, the transfer of over 800 acres from the State to the Federal Government (to be held in trust) was made possible when the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Director Mike Nedd signed the final two fee patents to clear title to the land so it could be turned over to the White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians.

BLM's responsibility in the transfer of land process began with the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985, which was to issue the trust patents on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). This has been an ongoing relationship with BLM and BIA for the past 20 years.

Photo by Jim Dryden



On July 7, BLM-ES Director Mike Nedd signs fee patents for transfer of State-owned land to the White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Gene Merriam, BIA Area Superintendent Gene Virdon, White Earth Chairman Doyle Turner, founding director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project Winona Laduke, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Manager Jim Dryden and Cadastral Surveyor Corky Rodine were also present.



BLM-Eastern States Presents Patent to Transfer the Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse

Story and photo by Chris Hanson, Assistant Field Manager, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office

On an overcast day, with cool winds blowing off Lake Huron, and the threat of hanging fog over the lake, the stage was set for the ceremonial transfer of the Pointe Aux Barques light tower near Huron City, Michigan. This was the same setting characterized as the original reason for the lighthouse's existence in the mid-1800s, to aid in the navigation of commercial traffic that carried forest products and other natural resources, along the shores of Lake Huron, one of the Great Lakes.

BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Milwaukee Field Manager (MFO) Jim Dryden presented the patent to John Hunt and other members of the Huron County Road Commission. This property is to be included in the Lighthouse County Park. The Commission oversees the County Parks Department and has entered into an agreement with the Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse Society (PABLS) for the day-to-day administration and maintenance of the lighthouse structures. The PABLS was established in 2000 to preserve, maintain and restore the lighthouse, research its history, and to provide an educational opportunity for future generations.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service originally withdrew 87 acres for the Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse and the lifesaving facility in this area. The Lighthouse Service ceased in the early 1930s, and Congress authorized the Secretary of Commerce to transfer approximately 57 acres to the county. Upon automating the facility in the 1950s, another 30 acres were transferred to the county, which



On June 12, 2003, BLM-ES MFO Manager Jim Dryden (right) presented a patent for the Pointe Aux Barques Lighthouse and the last remaining 0.47 acres of public domain associated with the lighthouse to John Hunt and other members of the Huron County Road Commission.

included all of the buildings associated with the lighthouse, except the light tower itself.

The ceremony was well attended by 75 people, including the BLM, Huron County elected officials, a representative from Congresswoman Candice Miller's office, PABLS members, and the local media. Support for the lighthouse from the local community and the PABLS is truly an indication of the energy available to restore and maintain this structure for the future as a centerpiece and magnet for the park. This local partnership also supports the county's economic development plans associated with heritage tourism.

A "Win-Win" Situation Achieved for Land Stewardship at Lathrop Bayou

Story and photo by Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office

BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Director Mike Nedd recently signed a Land Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with St. Joe Company, Florida's largest private landowner; Gencov, another adjacent private landowner; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The MOU provides the framework for a broad partnership project for 189 acres of public domain at Lathrop Bayou in the Florida Panhandle. "Everyone wins in this situation," said Nedd, "and

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BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Bob Schoolar holds a newly banded red-cockaded woodpecker at Lathrop Bayou. Bob has recorded locations and attributes for 21 woodpecker cavity trees as one of several layers of GIS data collected at Lathrop Bayou.



Youngsters Learn to Ride and Care for Horses at Piney Woods School Equine Camp

Story and photo by Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office

Teya Green, an eighth grade Piney Woods School student from Washington, DC, had never been on a horse before and never thought that caring for a horse would cost so much. But that changed when Green and 29 classmates in grades 8 through 12 spent April 22-25 learning about horses and the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Adoption program as a part of the Piney Woods School Equine Camp in Mississippi. "I think mustangs are unique, and I would like to own one some day," said Green. "I learned you have to have a lot of money, but I like caring for animals."

The BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Jackson Field Office in Mississippi and the Piney Woods School, an historically black boarding school, have been partnering since 1994 to further environmental education opportunities for students in grades 7 through 12. Through this partnership, the BLM designed the Equine Camp to expose minority students to equine science and agriculture. Students attending the camp are from predominately low-income families, often headed by a single parent, and come from over 23 states and several foreign countries. Over 95 percent of the graduating seniors attend college.

The camp sessions were held at the BLM-ES WH&B Holding Facility, located on the Piney Woods School Campus. This facility is used as a "hands-on" development workshop and the school's equine education area. During April, WH&B Program Lead Victoria Craft, Facilities Manager Marty Neugebauer, and WH&B Specialist



BLM-ES JFO WH&B Specialist James Hood gives eighth grader Teya Green some pointers on riding JFO's Mascot Mustang "Logan" during the Piney Woods School Equine Camp in Mississippi.

James Hood conducted camp sessions on pasture management, breeding management, anatomy, first-aid emergency care, breed identification, dental/hoof care, and riding techniques.

Dr. Larry Mayberry, a veterinarian from Brandon, Mississippi, spent a day teaching the students about animal nutrition, infectious diseases, vaccination programs, saddling and safe riding techniques. "I like to see students get excited about caring for horses," said Mayberry. "Once you learn, the horse becomes your best friend." Carol and Ron Pownall of Vicksburg, Mississippi, the 2001 BLM "Volunteer of the Year Award" recipients, also taught riding techniques with three of their mustangs that were adopted through the BLM's WH&B program.

Lathrop Bayou...continued from page 6

the biggest winner of all will be the outstanding natural resources of East Bay."

The MOU includes special emphasis on rebuilding the population of the red-cockaded woodpeckers that inhabit these relic longleaf pine forests. The agreement will also enable habitat enhancement strategies that will improve the long-term prospects of the woodpecker and other rare plant and animal species on over 1,500 acres of private and BLM-administered land, including the oldest remaining tracts of longleaf pine forests in Bay and Gulf Counties.

Employees Take A Break



Photo by Peggy Riek

On June 25, BLM-ES employees and family members, retirees, and guests celebrated Employee Appreciation Day with a tour at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and a picnic at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Virginia. At right, BLM-ES Geologist Jinx Fox talks about the future activities that are being planned at Meadowood SRMA.



ES Happenings

On June 12, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Director Mike Nedd presented Congressman Tom Davis (R-VA) with a commemorative plaque for his assistance and support of BLM-Eastern States' Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Fairfax County, Virginia.

In mid-June, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) conducted a 2-day Project Archaeology Workshop "Intrigue of the Past." The workshop was conducted in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Transportation for Jackson Public School teachers.

The BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) participated in a public meeting in Alpena, Michigan, in mid-May to discuss the lighthouse transfer process for the Thunder Bay Island Lighthouse. Participants included the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the NOAA, the Michigan Lighthouse Project, and members of the Thunder Bay Island Preservation Society. A key issue affecting lighthouse transfers is the U.S. Coast Guard's lack of funds to clean up contaminated sites.

The BLM-ES General Land Office (GLO) Quality Assurance Specialist Larry Cave and Public Room Legal Assistant Jennifer Spencer staffed an exhibit at the National Genealogical Society's Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from May 28-31. They explained GLO records and demonstrated the GLO Records Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov to more than 600 participants.

On May 29, children from Calvary Christian School visited the Meadowood SRMA in Virginia for a morning of fun-filled educational activities. BLM-ES employees Theresa Jefferson, Charles Bush, and Marion Eppright were on hand to teach the youngsters about wildlife, fire prevention, and environmental education activities. The children hiked on the Wood Thrush Trail, learned "Urban Leave No Trace" (an environmental conservation activity), and spent the rest of the day at Virginia's Mason Neck State Park.

Since January 2003, BLM-ES and U.S. Customs employees have participated in three Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross Blood Drives. During the months of January, April, and June, a total of 93 units of blood were donated to help save lives. Thanks to all who donated!

The BLM-ES JFO approved the newly revised development and management plan submitted by Chilton County, Alabama, for a county park known as Minooka Park, on land patented under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. The plan includes repair of the lake and dam along with water treatment, installation of electricity, a stocking lake for fishing, pavilion with tables and grills, and construction of 9 miles of unpaved trails for ATV and equestrian use and a shorter walking trail. Long-range plans include full camper hook-up facilities, ATV training course, education center, and security office.

In mid-January Grant's Farm, a St. Louis, Missouri, area tourist attraction, which is owned and operated by Anheuser-Busch, Inc., acquired a new resident. "Bud," an 11-year old pinto mustang stud, was adopted by Andy Busch to reside with the Busch family and other adopted mustangs at the Farm. Grant's Farm is named after our Nation's 18th President, Ulysses S. Grant, who farmed this land in the 1850s. The land was purchased almost a century ago by August A. Busch, Jr.'s father and is now a 281-acre wildlife preserve and historical site, welcoming over 20 million visitors since 1954.

The BLM-ES JFO sponsored "Pathways to Fishing" at Lefleur's Bluff State Park in mid-May in Jackson, Mississippi. Youths between the ages of 7-12 travelled through a pathway of six stations to learn all about fishing, angler ethics, and safety. JFO partnered with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Jackson Bass Club. The local public, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts also participated in the event.

BLM-Eastern States held three Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sales at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, during the months of December 2002, March 2003, and June 2003. Total bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue amounting to \$505,220 went to the U.S. Treasury, and \$230,733 was shared with the affected States. The next Sale is scheduled for September 25.

The October 2002 Wild Horse & Burro Internet adoption provided homes to 34 of the 41 animals offered, with total bids amounting to \$9,595; the January 2003 Internet adoption found homes for 86 of the 124 animals offered, with total bids amounting to \$20,055; and in March 2003, 37 of the 77 animals offered for adoption were placed in good homes, with total bids amounting to \$9,070.



Recognition Given to Oil & Gas Operators and Drilling Company

By Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office

BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office's (JFO) Oil & Gas staff provided letters and certificates of appreciation to Jetta Production Company, Denbury Resources, and RAPAD Drilling Company at the end of Fiscal Year 2002 for their contributions to successful oil and gas field operations.

Jetta Production operated the Romere Pass Field in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, a highly sensitive area at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The company was recognized for their high degree of professionalism and the significant strides made during their tenure as Operator of the Field. Through the company's efforts, the number of idle wells was significantly reduced, and they quickly corrected all concerns raised by JFO's Inspection staff.

Denbury Resources was recognized for progress made in addressing concerns for idle wells and facilities/pipelines that were no longer being

used on the DeSoto National Forest. The company plugged five wells, removed five tank batteries, removed extensive flowlines and completed the restoration of impacted areas. Specific company personnel were recognized for their commendable cooperation with the JFO.

The letter and certificate to RAPAD Drilling expressed appreciation for the excellent experiences JFO staff had in working with the company during the drilling of two wells in southeast Mississippi, where drilling operations were associated with dangerous geologic conditions. At all times, the company maintained high drilling standards with emphasis on clean and safe operations. The company also provided the JFO staff, and personnel and BLM trainers with a tour during a U.S. Forest Service Oil & Gas Training Course. The courtesy and expertise of the Rig Superintendent throughout the drilling of both wells were also noted in the letter.

A Day of Fun and Learning for DC Area Youngsters

By Theresa Jefferson, Environmental Education Specialist, BLM-ES, Lower Potomac Field Station

On June 12, over 200 students from schools in the Washington, DC area participated in a day of environmental activities, volunteer projects, water safety training, and fun at the "Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) on the Water" program—all part of Great Outdoors Week, and "Take Pride in America."

BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) and Washington Office employees helped to organize the event held at Anacostia Park, Washington, DC. Interior Secretary Gale Norton joined in several volunteer events, including a gardening project at the Frederick Douglass Home in Washington, DC, and ground-breaking for a new Anacostia Riverwalk trail along Washington's Anacostia River.



Photo by Kevin Flynn

BLM-ES Environmental Education Specialist Theresa Jefferson describes pollution sources as part of an "Urban Leave No Trace" program at Anacostia Park in Washington, DC.



Awards

Charles Bush, former Acting Interim Lower Potomac Field Station Manager, for his role in leading the acquisition and management of three properties in Virginia and Maryland, now known as the Lower Potomac Field Station. Charles enthusiastically oversaw the opening of the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Specialist and **Benita Wynn**, both of the Lower Potomac Field Station, for their exemplary and outstanding contributions to three high-profile events associated with Meadowood Farm—making preparations for the public opening of the Wood Thrush Trail; planning and hosting the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Leadership Team meeting; and participating in the Meadowood-West weekend cleanup.

Marion Eppright, Law Enforcement Ranger, Lower Potomac Field Station, for performing an outstanding job in support of the opening of Meadowood SRMA's Wood Thrush Trail. Marion established and solicited technical assistance from other agencies and arranged all logistics for safety and law enforcement for opening day of the trail.

Sharon Fakkema, Realty Specialist, Jackson Field Office (JFO), for showing extreme diligence and professionalism in the preparation of several drafts of the very complex Jackson Field Office Continuity of Operation Plan. Sharon also made significant contributions to the JFO's Safety Program.

Jinx Fox, Geologist, Lower Potomac Field Station, for performing an outstanding job with the opening of Meadowood SRMA, Wood Thrush Trail. Jinx searched multiple-use trail issues, prepared a briefing paper and recommendations, developed a brochure entitled "Hikers and Horses at Meadowood SRMA," and created "Trail Users Rules for Hikers and Horseback Riders on the Wood Thrush Trail," among other products for the Meadowood SRMA.

Theresa Jefferson, Environmental Education Specialist, Lower Potomac Field Station, for her outstanding efforts related to the public trail opening of Meadowood SRMA, the weekend cleanup at Meadowood West, and planning Earth Day activities and agenda for the Trail Ceremony. Theresa also designed and ordered the trail-head sign, created and designed a trail guide, assisted with design and production of a horse brochure.

Michelle Kniceley, Writer-Editor, State Office, for her efforts in ensuring BLM-ES successfully completed the Proposed Planning Assessment/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA) for the Meadowood SRMA. Michelle assisted with analysis and cataloging more than 400 public comments, ensuring an appropriate response; assisting with public notification during the planning process; and playing a key role in planning the opening of the first public hiking trail.

Terry Lewis, External Affairs Chief, State Office, for his significant contributions to the land use planning for Meadowood SRMA and the opening of the first public hiking trail on the Virginia property—a success directly attributable to his leadership, skill, and dedication. Terry was instrumental in producing a quality PA/EA and accompanying Decision Record, and coordinated the receipt, analysis, and response of hundreds of comments on the draft PA/EA.

Tom McKean, Property Management Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office, for his assistance with the implementation of the Minnesota Public Land Improvement Act (MNPLIA) of 1990. Tom provided diligent and objective realty support in the completion of the majority of the pending MNPLIA cases, working extra hours to explain MNPLIA to the public, resulting in applicants withdrawing their claims, and resolution of accretion, historical use, changes in the landform, and comparison of acreage and legal descriptions.

Colleen O'Dean, Program Assistant, Milwaukee Field Office, for her consistent and excellent work in support of the WH&B staff. Colleen worked with programmers to revise the Private Maintenance and Care Agreement computer program from a dBase program to a Microsoft Access software program, ensuring that the program worked correctly and met the user's needs.

Ed Ruda, Realty Specialist, State Office, for exemplary service as Lands Program Leader to the Branch of Resources, Use and Protection, addressing a multitude of highly complex and demanding issues and projects.

Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, Jackson Field Office (JFO), for contributing to the mission of BLM-ES using innovation to successfully address the JFO's oil and gas leasing backlog; resolving the National Environmental Policy Act workload issue on mineral estate beneath nearly 30,000 acres of Army Corps of Engineer (COE) surface; and leveraging funds through a cost share agreement with the State of Mississippi to plug 11 orphan wells.



Employee Feature—Pete Turner, Business Manager

By Milli Alam. Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-ES External Affairs

Launching surveillance and meteorological satellites successfully for the U.S. Air Force, managing over \$200 million worth of contracts for the U.S. Army in Europe, and traveling extensively around Europe and Asia, are just a few of Pete Turner's achievements that give him much pride. Brownell Frazier Turner, nicknamed "Pete," has been the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Business Manager since March 10, 2003. While his time here has not been long, Pete has been with the Federal Government for 27 years, with a career filled with diverse and interesting experiences.

Born in Lexington, Kentucky, Pete considers California to be his home, where he grew up and attended high school and college. In college, he studied Electronic Theory and Criminal Law. His strong electronics background led him to a career with the U.S. Army for 18 years, where he started as an Electronics Technician and eventually became a Senior Electronics Inspector working in Quality Assurance.

Pete spent 6 years with the U.S. Air Force working in its space program, where he assisted in the construction of the Atlas space launch complex at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc, California. He worked as Project Manager for Atlas and Titan, two satellite projects, and is very proud that all of his launches were successful.

Working for the military allowed Pete and his wife to travel around the world and live abroad.



Photo by Peggy Riek

Pete Turner, Business Manager

Before joining BLM-ES, Pete lived in Germany, and worked as the Director of a Contracts Management Office for the U.S. Army. His travels have also included Singapore, Thailand, and South Korea, where he ensured the integrity of radar systems on a foreign military sales project.

With all these accomplishments under his belt, Pete still has an eye to the future. He will continue his career in the Federal Government and is looking for opportunities to improve his management skills and leadership abilities.

Even though his son lives in Colorado and his other relatives reside in California, Pete and his wife are considering returning abroad after retirement.

Comings & Goings

New employees.—*Brian Kennedy*, Physical Scientist, Jackson Field Office (JFO); *Brownell "Pete" Turner*, Business Manager, State Office; *Milli Alam*, Public Affairs Specialist, External Affairs; *Mike Young*, Supervisory Land Surveyor; and *Jay Thietten*, Fire Management Officer, Division of Resource Planning, Use, and Protection.

Temporary Hires.—*Donna Burnette*, Staff Assistant, Division of Resource Planning, Use, and Protection. **2003**

Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew members: *Anthony Ashalintubbi, Hiseion Berry, John Brooks, Jason Brown, Rowland Clark, Jon Gregory, Paul Jean-Louis, Tony Jordan, Leroy Kelly III, Robert Maharrey, Delia Milis, Robert White, Charles Wicks, and Christopher Wright.* **Surveying personnel:** *Erika Breton, Christopher Farrar, Blake Johnson, Jesse Kopach, Adam Lyons, Mark Martin, Brendan Murphy, Ken Olsen, Jennifer Piper, Ken Roy, and Mark Wotruba.*

Transfers.—*Justine Rose*, Range Aid, JFO, to U.S. Department of Agriculture; *Steve Hansen*, Land Surveyor and *Cheryl Hansen*, Surveying Technician, Cadastral Survey, both to BLM in Arizona; *Marge Rothenberg*, Human Resource Specialist, to Department of Defense; and *Pam Quallich*, Records Administrator, Records Access & Administration to U.S. Department of the Interior.

Retirees.—*Sheila Johnson-Curry*, Human Resources Specialist, Human Resources; *Janet Hale*, Land Law Examiner, Division of Resource Planning, Use, and Protection; *Harry Moritz*, eCommerce Project Manager, State Office; *Clay Moore*, Natural Resource Manager, and *Charlie Graham*, Land Law Examiner, both of the JFO.



E-mail Briefs

General Land Office—"Thank you very much for your assistance. I can't imagine how big the job is that you people have taken on. I think what you are doing is something very special that the American people will enjoy for years and years to come. We all want to know our roots and this Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov gives a lot of people a place to start." *Ed McConnell*

"I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate the availability of the historical records on your web site. To an avid genealogist, this is just an amazing and wonderful event. Our family has been unaware, until now, of this aspect of our history and I am so grateful you have made this possible." Sincerely, *Jill Rising*

Eastern States Vision Statement — As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

Vantage is published bi-annually by the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, Office of External Affairs, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia. For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713. Visit our Web site at www.es.blm.gov
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Employees Run for a Cure



On June 7, "Team BLM-Eastern States" participated in the 20th Annual "Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure," the world's largest 5K walk/run to raise money for breast cancer research. The event was held throughout the historical streets of our Nation's Capitol. This year 2.5 million dollars was raised for research in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. (From left) Team members included Lisa Lanham, Andrea Nygren, Myra Musialkiewicz, Kate Marks, Tanya Spann Roche; and Terry Wilson (front). Not pictured were Fatemeh Ezzati and Fatemeh Doovodi.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, Virginia 22153**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

